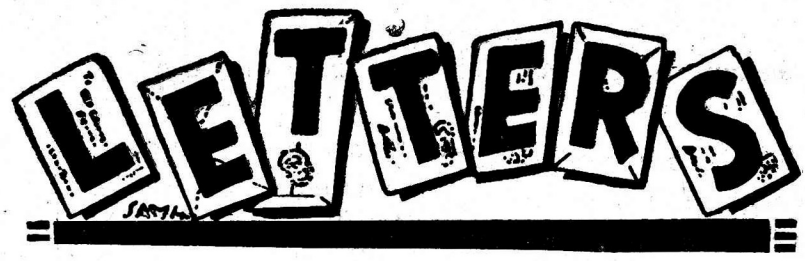

Call To Womanhood

Sir—I have read with great interest "Bengal Womanhood's" letter in the "Dawn" dated the 30 November. I endorse her call to womanhood with all the emphasis at my command.

The women are the bigger, if not the better, half of society. With the bigger half inert, it is idle to expect the society as a whole to be as active and alive as it should be.

The Muslim womanhood of India have been slumbering far too long. The number of those awake can be counted at the finger's end. Things are changing slowly but steadily. It is for the awakened to take the lead in rousing those yet asleep.

It is unfortunate that one of the awakened few should have behaved so badly with Muslim League. We did not expect Begum Shah Nawaz to do what she has done. The mess of pottage of the Defence Council should not have led her astray. We repudiate her claim to represent us. I join my humble voice in the request to Begum Shah Nawaz to come out of the Council even now. She has branded us with the stamp of disloyalty and selfishness, so foreign to women's nature.

I agree that our talented sister, Begum Mohammad Ali, should take the lead in inspiring the Muslim womanhood with the League ideals. I am sure her appeal will find the required response. The field is fairly ready for the seeds. The scattering should be done now.

We are ready to do our bits. The League Cabinet should create the necessary forum. Propaganda should be initiated now. The "Dawn" should open a women's corner. This may be helpful. The other Muslim papers should do likewise.

Yours etc.,
Calcutta S. Begum.

The days of relegating them to a mere "corner" are long past. They have already taken the initiative, which we hasten to welcome.—Editor.

Self-Denial.

Sir—In this land of the Orient, where saints and seers abound; where standards of truth are raised and lowered every day; where banners of *Ahimsa* are unfurled and folded very often; where ethical codes and principles are always hanging in the balance, amid the vissicitudes of human frailty, the spirit of "self-denial," however, has reigned supreme. Is it not "self-denial" to dispossess what one owns, to disown what belongs to one, and to deny at other occasions what one has once believed? The lowly heights of Wardha are radiant with the gleaming lustre of "self-denial." The crowd that gathered at Poona denied themselves the Conress belief at Delhi, and extended "the hand of friendship" to the "enemy," but again withdrew it at Bombay. The non-voilent hero, who found himself suddenly raised to the position of a dictator at Ramgarh, denied himself a certain pleasure at Poona, although at Bombay the temptation was irresistible. To err is human. He is the representative of all people, but oftimes "represents himself alone." The paradox is pleasing to him and a magnificent manifestation of the spirit of "self-denial."

The "Idol of Truth," the junior leaders of the Congress crusadors in the Central Assembly, once discovered in his mental laboratory the "acid test of Mr. Amery's ability" and asked him to say to the rest of the people of India: "no impossible safeguards, no coalition ministries no Pakistan, you must settle with the majority." But when his attention was drawn to it on the floor of the House, he completely denied it in a spirit of traditional "self-denial," peculiar to his school of thought. It was the same Mr. Satyamurthi, who said, "I must plead guilty to the charge that, as I see the world today, I see no chance of even a free India defending herself without adequate means of doing so," and yet at another moment, "we realise that the defence of India is a vital concern, but India ought to be free to decide for herself." Here is another instance of self-denial from one of Mr. Satyamurthi's oratorical effusions -"The Muslim League cannot be perpetually used as an argument against India's freedom. In recent weeks, the League has shown itself to be much more anti-British than the Congress has been or ever will be."

Convenient indeed is the cult of Gandhian self-denial—conveniently confounding and *vice versa*. Yours etc.,
Bombay. Onlooker.

Pakistan

Sir — From every nook and corner, daily emerges the cry from Hindu lips that Pakistan means vivisection of the motherland and to prevent it they will shed their lost drop of blood. It shows that having failed, in the garb of nationalists, to deceive the Indian Muslims, they now want to terrorise them to subjection. But it does not require a prophet to foretell that in this also they will miserably fail. I will advise Hindus not to waste their time and energy in trying to do something which can ever be accomplished.

In this connection one thing is most amazing. If we read the Indian political history of the last half a century, we see that not Muslims but Hindus are entirely responsible for "vivisection of the motherland." The day when they decided to keep aloof from Urdu, the *lingua franca* of the country and a sign of Hindu-Muslim unity, and direct their energies in advancing Hindi, a language long forgotten, the "vivisection" began. By living side by side for centuries, the two nations had come to adopt common dress and common habits, especially in Northern India, but Hindus in their zeal to give up every thing originating from Muslim culture, quickened the speed of "vivisection" of the country. And now when the Muslims decided to establish two independent zones in the country the Hindus began to move heaven and earth against them.

The theory of one nation thus stands refuted. Hindus realise the weakness of their arguments, but they are fighting Muslims tooth and nail, because if Pakistan is once established their dream of dominating other nationalities comes to naught. Hindus' policy is "tails you lose and heads we win." They want Muslims to live here as Shudras. Muslims cannot agree to it and will never agree to it.

The Congress Dictator, Mr. Gandhi, does not want to give any share in the Government of the country to Muslims. That is why he has always avoided to come to terms with them. I cannot understand why the Hindus should shed crocodile tears over their own misdeeds. Will the Hindus even now realise the situation and not waste their time and energy in trying to do a thing which they can never do?

Delhi. Yours etc.,
S. M. Anwar Husain.